



# NORTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Representative Corey Mock

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**COMMITTEES:**  
Appropriations

January 21, 2021

HB 1290 – Safe Passing Distance

Dear Chairman Dan Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee,

Since our last legislative session I was pleasantly surprised to learn that our neighbors to the south – South Dakota – had recently enhanced their bicycle safety laws to require motor vehicles to leave a “safe distance” when overtaking a bicycle: 3 feet when at-or-below 35 mph; 6 feet when above 35 mph.

I was even more surprised to learn North Dakota remains one of only eight states without any safe passing requirement.

HB 1290 – at the request of constituents, cyclists, and parents – would add a safe distance passing requirement to North Dakota Century Code that would be consistent with most states, including Minnesota.

Attached to my testimony is a map from NCSL illustrating safe passing requirements of all states.

While some states require 4-feet, 6-feet, or even mandate vehicles to change lanes completely, supporters of this bill felt best aligning safe passing laws with Minnesota, avoiding confusion in our border cities of Grand Forks, Fargo, and Wahpeton.

Cycling advocates have also submitted testimony and may speak to highway and insurance data supporting this legislation once I've concluded.

HB 1290 is a very simple addition to our state laws that will add important safety requirements to our laws, become part of our driver's education safety material, and enhance the cycling experience for all in North Dakota. I hope your committee gives HB 1290 favorable consideration.

Thank you again, Chairman Ruby and members of the committee.